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South-South cooperation for development

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High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation
Fourteenth session
New York, 31 May-3 June 2005

Draft decisions recommended by the Working Group

Draft decision I
Review of progress in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries

The High-level Committee,

Reaffirming the validity and continued relevance of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[1] and the importance of the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries,

Recalling the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits, including the Millennium Declaration,[2] and relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recognizing that developing countries have the primary responsibility for promoting and implementing South-South cooperation, not as a substitute for but rather as a complement to North-South cooperation, and in this context reiterating the need for the international community to support the efforts of the developing countries to expand South-South cooperation,

Reiterating the importance of development assistance from developed countries to support, inter alia, South-South cooperation and noting ongoing efforts to increase aid effectiveness and efficiency,

Having considered the report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),[3]

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[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, Buenos Aires, 30 August-12 September 1978* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.78.II.A.11 and corrigendum), Chap. I.

[2] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[3] SSC/14/1 and Corr.1.

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1. *Notes with appreciation* that a growing number of developing countries, including pivotal countries, are initiating and sponsoring South-South cooperation activities, including technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, designed to benefit a large number of developing countries;

2. *Emphasizes* the important contribution of triangular cooperation arrangements to facilitate South-South cooperation, and encourages developing countries, regional and subregional institutions and centres of excellence, with the assistance, as appropriate, of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, to draw lessons from experiences in triangular cooperation and design innovative South-South cooperation programmes;

3. *Notes* the recent meeting of the Forum on Partnership for More Effective Development Cooperation, co-organized by the United Nations Development Programme and the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, in Paris in February 2005;

4. *Stresses* the need to mobilize additional resources for enhancing South-South cooperation, including triangular cooperation;

5. *Encourages* all Member States to cooperate more closely in areas of shared interests to be able to respond strategically to common challenges, opportunities and risks, including those posed by globalization;

6. *Recognizes* the important role that regional mechanisms such as the Andean Community, the Asian Cooperation Dialogue, the Caribbean Community, the Central American Integration System, the Community of Portuguese-speaking Countries, the Common Market of the South, the New Asian-African Strategic Partnership and the New Partnership for Africa's Development are playing in promoting South-South cooperation, and calls upon the international community, including the Tokyo International Conference on African Development process, to continue its active support thereto;

7. *Also recognizes* the role of civil society organizations and the private sector in supporting national efforts to promote South-South cooperation;

8. *Urges* developed and developing countries, the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions, and other development partners to intensify their efforts to support South-South initiatives designed to benefit especially the least developed countries, landlocked and transit developing countries, small island developing States and countries in post-conflict and crisis situations, with a view to achieving economic growth and sustainable development and more equitable integration into the global economy;

9. *Reiterates* the need for the organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions and other relevant multilateral institutions, to take further concrete measures to improve the networking and connectivity of South-South cooperation focal points in the United Nations system and developing and developed countries and to strengthen and expand the focal point network to include focal points in the private sector and civil society organizations, taking advantage of the Web of Information for Development website to improve the flow of information on experts, best practices and proven development solutions in the South, and in this regard stresses the need to intensify

triangular cooperation to facilitate the use of virtual means for promoting educational and technical exchanges between developed and developing countries;

10. *Notes with interest* the thematic discussion on "The role of South-South cooperation in achieving the Millennium Development Goals", and calls upon the entities of the United Nations development system to include in their periodic reports on the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[2] to their governing bodies a section on South-South cooperation in their respective areas of competence;

11. *Calls upon* all Member States to bear in mind the importance of South-South and triangular cooperation in the context of the deliberations of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly to be held in September 2005;

12. *Takes note with appreciation* of the proclamation of 19 December as the United Nations Day for South-South Cooperation, and encourages Member States to organize such events in the future to raise public awareness of the importance of South-South cooperation;

13. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to undertake consultations with Member States and United Nations organizations and agencies, with a view to updating the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries;

14. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to submit a comprehensive report to the High-level Committee at its fifteenth session on progress made in the implementation of the Buenos Aires Plan of Action and the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries.

Draft decision II
Overall framework for the promotion and application of South-South cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 58/220 of 23 December 2003, which reaffirmed the need to strengthen further, within its available resources, the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation of the United Nations Development Programme as a separate entity and a focal point for South-South cooperation within the United Nations system,

Welcoming the initiatives being undertaken at the subregional, regional, interregional and global levels towards establishing public-private partnership mechanisms to enhance and expand South-South cooperation in trade and investment,

Noting the reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to the fourteenth session of the High-level Committee,[1]

1. *Urges* relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system to follow the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries, including the United Nations Common Results Framework on Technical and Economic Cooperation among Developing Countries, as approved by the High-level Committee at its thirteenth session and noted by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, in the design, formulation, implementation, evaluation and reporting on their programmes;

2. *Takes note* of the third cooperation framework for South-South cooperation 2005-2007, and welcomes its strategic orientation, including emphasis on policy development, research, dialogue and mainstreaming; creation of an enabling environment and mechanisms for expanded South-South business cooperation and technology exchanges for poverty reduction; and fostering the sharing of southern development knowledge and solutions;

3. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, in implementing its third cooperation framework, to design, at the request of Member States, and support the implementation of innovative South-South projects and programmes that will serve as models for replication or adaptation;

4. *Welcomes* the United Nations Development Programme Executive Board decision of 24 September 2004[2] to include South-South cooperation among the drivers of development effectiveness in the multi-year funding framework, thus making South-South cooperation a cross-cutting element in all five United Nations Development Programme practice areas, calls upon the United Nations funds, programmes and other bodies of the United Nations development system, including the regional commissions, to similarly intensify the mainstreaming of South-South cooperation in all their development activities, and in this regard requests the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to work closely with these organizations;

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[1] SSC/14/1 and Corr.1; and see SSC/14/2.

[2] Decision 2004/32.

5. *Also welcomes* the work of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in assisting developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, the landlocked developing countries and the small island developing States, to establish mechanisms that will ensure more effective implementation of policies, agreements and South-South action plans, and calls upon the Special Unit to capitalize on the momentum generated by international conferences on South-South cooperation and initiatives in regional cooperation and integration to design specific follow-up and implementation actions that address the common concerns of developing countries and decisions taken in these forums in line with subregional and regional development frameworks contributing to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[3]

6. *Requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to intensify its support for national efforts to strengthen South-South policy implementation and to continue to work with national South-South focal points, especially those in pivotal countries, in order to scale up well-coordinated South-South cooperation programmes to least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States;

7. *Also requests* the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, in collaboration with relevant organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system and in full consultation with the countries concerned, to improve networking among all development actors, with a view to fostering public-private partnerships that include civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, academia and the private sector;

8. *Reaffirms* that existing regular resources will continue to fund the activities of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, while encouraging the Special Unit to explore and undertake intensive, innovative and additional resource mobilization initiatives to attract more resources, both financial and in kind, to supplement regular resources and other funds for activities involving South-South cooperation;

9. *Welcomes* recent progress in the development of rosters of southern experts shared through the information system of the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation, the Web of Information for Development, and encourages the Special Unit to work more closely with organizations and agencies of the United Nations development system as well as the South Centre in order to maximize the potential of the Web of Information for Development in addressing the need for information on best practices;

10. *Takes note* of the efforts to increase the availability of information on South-South cooperation, including through the electronic and print media, and calls upon the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation and other members of the United Nations development system to analyse the growing volume of information on South-South cooperation to disseminate accurate qualitative and quantitative information on technical and economic cooperation among developing countries, including triangular cooperation arrangements, in order to enhance prospects for South-South and triangular cooperation;

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[3] General Assembly resolution 55/2.

11. *Invites* the Bureau of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation to continue to hold intersessional consultations aimed at assisting the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation to follow up on and implement decisions of the High-level Committee and inform Member States of its ongoing activities relating thereto;

12. *Requests* the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to report on the implementation of the present decision to the High-level Committee at its fifteenth session.

Draft decision III
Provisional agenda for the fifteenth session of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation

The High-level Committee,

Taking into account the views expressed at its fourteenth session,

Approves the following provisional agenda for its fifteenth session, to be held in 2007:

1. Opening of the session.
2. Review of progress made in implementing the Buenos Aires Plan of Action, the new directions strategy for technical cooperation among developing countries and the decisions of the High-level Committee.
3. Consideration of Reports of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme:
   (a) Implementation of the Guidelines for the Review of Policies and Procedures concerning Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries;
   (b) Organizational, administrative and financial arrangements of the United Nations Development Programme in support of South-South cooperation.
4. Thematic discussion (theme to be decided on the basis of consultations that will be undertaken with Member States by the Bureau of the High-level Committee).
5. Adoption of the report of the Working Group.
6. Approval of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session of the High-level Committee.
7. Other matters.
8. Adoption of the report of the High-level Committee on its fifteenth session.